

Nancy Rumrill
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Ground Water Office, WTR-9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-972-3293
415-947-3545 (FAX)

----- Forwarded by Nancy Rumrill/R9/USEPA/US on 05/12/2009 10:14 AM -----

From: Pam Daoust [REDACTED]
To: Nancy.Rumrill/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 11/04/2008 04:22 PM
Subject: Testimony

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

I am writing to urge that conditions be placed on the Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit to the County of Maui for the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility which would require increased use of wastewater for reclamation purposes instead of pumping it into the ocean via injection wells. It is vitally important to the preservation of our already stressed reefs that the amount of wastewater injected into the ocean be drastically reduced or eliminated altogether. This water should be used for reclamation purposes on our water-needy island. Algae blooms are fueled by nitrogen-rich effluent and our reefs are rapidly deteriorating due to our past and present practices of injecting effluent into our surrounding ocean.

Having done reef surveys at Kahakuli Beach (Airport Beach) in past years, I myself have observed the steady deterioration taking place at that once beautiful and abundant reef as more and more algae has begun to smother it. The time to put a stop to this is NOW, before we lose all of our offshore reefs altogether.

I live in Ma'alaea where the coral reef has been heavily impacted by effluent from our own injection wells on my street. In the last ten years, we have gone from 76% coral coverage to a mere 8%, according to the July 2007 reef study. (See Attached.) My own street--Hauoli Street--pumps 295 thousand gallons of effluent into our ocean. This is a drop in the bucket compared to the millions of gallons produced by the Lahaina plant. How can our reefs survive under such a steady, unremitting onslaught? In Ma'alaea, the reef has NOT survived and West Maui is in danger of suffering the same devastation and loss.

As algae blooms die off, they consume dissolved oxygen, increase turbidity, deprive other species of light and oxygen and cause massive loss of reef life. Every study done on this topic shows that there is a clear relationship between algae blooms and injection wells, resulting in loss of reef life.

Please make it a tough requirement that wastewater be diverted from injection wells to land based uses. We really cannot afford to continue doing what we have been doing in the past if we want to preserve life on our nearshore reefs.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Pam Daoust
190 Hanoli Street Apt 305
Ma'alaea, HI 96793
daoust@hawaiirr.com

[attachment "MauuReefDeclines.pdf" deleted by Nancy Bonelli/R9/USEPA/USI]